

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

PL 14 VIETS

(643)

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1967 JUL 3 PM 2 28

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY *Joan Izenberg* DATE *10/5/81*

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAIGON 150

SUB: BIO, PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES;
PHAM HUY CO - LY QUOC SINH

REF: A) SAIGON 76 *Pal 14 nets* B) SAIGON 154 *Pal 14 nets*

1. DR. PHAM HUY CO IS A 49 YEAR OLD NORTHERN BUDDHIST POLITICIAN. LY QUOC SINH IS A 45-YEAR OLD NORTHERN LAWYER.
2. DR. CO WAS BORN IN APRIL 1918 IN PHU LY, NORTHERN VIET-NAM. AFTER WORLD WAR II HE REPORTEDLY SERVED AS A MEDICAL OFFICER WITH VIET MINH ARMED FORCES, BUT LEFT THE VIET MINH IN ABOUT 1947 TO COMPLETE MEDICAL TRAINING, RECEIVING A MEDICAL DEGREE

FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF HANOI IN THE NEXT YEAR. HE WENT TO PARIS IN ABOUT 1950 FOR FURTHER STUDY AND WORKED AS A PEDIATRIC ASSISTANT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PARIS FACULTY OF MEDICINE, BUT HE SOON BEGAN TO DEVOTE FULL TIME TO POLITICS.

3. BY 1955 CO HAD BECOME ASSOCIATED WITH DR. PHAN QUANG DANJUS FREE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, AND HE BECAME SECRETARY-GENERAL OF ITS PARIS BRANCH. DAN WAS IMPRISONED BY THE DIEM GOVERNMENT IN 1960, AND CO TOOK OVER PARTY LEADERSHIP IN 1961, MAKING TRIPS TO THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER COUNTRIES TO TRY TO CONVINCE OFFICIALS THAT DIEM MUST GO. IN 1962, WHILE ON A TRIP FROM FRANCE TO CAMBODIA AND JAPAN, CO CLAIMS HE FOUNDED THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE VIETNAMESE REVOLUTION ON A JUNK WITHIN VIETNAMESE TERRITORIAL WATERS.

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-2- SAIGON 158 7/3/67

4. CO RETURNED TO VIET-NAM SOON AFTER THE NOVEMBER 1963 COUP AND INTENSIFIED HIS POLITICAL EFFORTS, BUT USED HIS ORGANIZATION AS A LOYAL OPPOSITION MOVEMENT. IN FEBRUARY 1964 HE REPORTEDLY WAS ORGANIZING A FRONT OF VARIOUS RELIGIONS AGAINST THE NGUYEN KHANH GOVERNMENT. IN SEPTEMBER 1964 HE ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION

OF THE NATIONAL FORCES FOR THE PEOPLE'S SOVEREIGNTY AND CALLED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A POPULARLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT WITHIN 12 MONTHS. HE WAS ARRESTED DECEMBER 1964 BUT APPARENTLY NOT HELD LONG.

5. THERE IS NO FURTHER INFORMATION ON LY QUOC SINH.

BUNKER

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 INCOMING TELEGRAM *DECLASSIFIED* Department of State

POL 14 VIETS
 (694)

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REF: A) SAIGON 76 H) SAIGON 154

SUBJECT BIO, PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES, NGUYEN DINH QUAT-TRAN.
 CUU CHAN

1. QUAT IS A MIDDLE-AGED, WEALTHY NORTH CENTRAL CATHOLIC INDUSTRIALIST AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTY. HE WAS AN UNSUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY IN 1961. CHAN IS AN ELDERLY SOUTHERN CATHOLIC AND A FORMER MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

2. QUAT WAS BORN IN HA TINH PROVINCE, NORTHERN VIET-NAM, IN 1917. LITTLE IS KNOWN OF HIS EDUCATION OR EARLY LIFE, BUT HE SAYS HE IS OF A SCHOLARY FAMILY AND HAS A DEGREE IN "LETTERS, RITES, AND INTELLECT". SINCE COMING TO SOUTH VIET-NAM HE HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH VARIOUS POLITICAL MOVEMENTS, AND HAS BECOME WEALTHY THROUGH BUSINESS AND AS AN OWNER OF A RUBBER PLANTATION IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE.

3. IN 1961 QUAT RAN ALAINST NGO DINH DIEM FOR PRESIDENT, FINISHING THIRD WITH ABOUT FOUR PERCENT OF THE VOTE. IN 1964 HE WAS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE "ASSOCIATION OF THE VICTIMS OF COMMUNISM," AND IN 1965 HE WAS REPORTED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE NEWLY-FORMED "RADICAL DEMOCRATIC BLOC," UNDER WHOSE BANNER HE WAS ELECTED TO THE ASSEMBLY IN 1966 FROM BINH DUONG PROVINCE. IN THE ASSEMBLY HE JOINED THE DEMOCRATIC BLOC AND ITS SUCCESSOR, THE DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE BLOC.

4. IN HIS ANNOUNCEMENT OF CANDIDACY IN APRIL, QUAT SAID HE WOULD WITHDRAW IF A MAN WORTHY OF HIS SUPPORT DECIDED TO ENTER THE RACE. FROM THAT TIME UNTIL HIS FILING OF CANDIDACY ON JUNE 30, NOTHING WAS HEARD OF HIS CAMPAIGN.

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-2-SAIGON 160 JULY 3, 1967

5. CHAN WAS BORN IN 1906 IN SOC TRANG, BA ZUYEN PROVINCE, IN SOUTHERN VIETNAM. HE STUDIED AT TABERD LYCEE IN SAIGON, AND LATER RECEIVED A DEGREE BY CORRESPONDENCE IN CLASSICAL LITERATURE. HE ALSO HAS A DOCTORATE IN LETTERS FROM THE SORBONNE. IN 1937 HE WAS IN FRANCE, STUDYING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LILLE AND THE CATHOLIC INSTITUTE AT LILLE. IN 1940 HE RETURNED TO SAIGON BUT TAUGHT GREEK, LATIN, ENGLISH AND FRENCH LITERATURE AND STAYED OUT OF POLITICS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1947, WHEN HE BECAME MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND YOUTH IN THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF COCHINCHINA, SERVING UNTIL APRIL 1948 WHEN HE WAS DROPPED IN A CABINET RESHUFFLE.

6. CHAN THEN FOUNDED AND DIRECTED A PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOL BEARING HIS NAME. IN 1953 HE VISITED THE UNITED STATES; IN AUGUST 1954 HE WAS NAMED RECTOR OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ADMINISTRATION. BUNKER
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